<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, Figures 1 and 2 are corrected by the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections. Claims 1-16 are amended. The specification is amended via the attached Substitute Specification. The Abstract is amended by the attached Substitute Abstract.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of the Abstract, Substitute Specification (37 C.F.R. §1.125(b)(2)) and each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:
      Substitute Abstract
      Appendix
      Substitute Specification
      Marked-up copy of original specification
      Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections

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APPENDIX

Changes to Abstract:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended Abstract.

~~An objective of~~ The~~the~~ present invention ~~is to~~ provide_s_ a data output controller ideally suited for easily obtaining detailed information available on a network.

—————_A data output control terminal ~~300~~ is communicably connected to a portable terminal ~~100~~ possessed by a user, printing devices ~~PR₁ through PRₙ~~ distributed and installed at various locations, and WWW servers ~~DS₁ through DSₘ~~ via the Internet ~~400~~, acquires data regarding a data print request from the portable terminal ~~100~~ from the WWW servers ~~DS~~, selects a printing device ~~PR~~, which is considered to be optimum for the user of the portable terminal ~~100~~ to receive provided output data, from among a plurality of printing devices ~~PR~~, and outputs the acquired data to the selected printing device ~~PR~~. Regarding the selection of a printing device ~~PR~~, data on a printing device position is retrieved from the storage device ~~62~~ on the basis of, for example, data on a desired providing area indicating a desired providing area where output data is desired to be provided, and a printing device ~~PR~~ located in an area specified by the data on a desired providing area is selected.

Changes to Specification:

A Substitute Specification is attached in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.125(b)(2).

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

———_1.   (Amended)_A data output controller that is communicably connected, via a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user _and that_; issues a data print request, ~~and features portability,~~ and a plurality of output terminals that is distributed and installed at various locations to print data, receives a data print request from the portable terminal, and

outputs data regarding the data print request to the output terminals, the data output controller comprising:

a storage device~~means~~ that~~for~~ stores~~storing~~ output terminal information regarding the output terminals for each of the output terminals:~~;~~

a selecting device~~means~~ that~~for~~ selects~~selecting~~ one of the plurality of output terminals:~~;~~ and

an output device~~means~~ that~~for~~ outputs~~ting~~ the data regarding the data print request to the output terminal selected by the selecting device~~means~~,

——— ~~wherein~~ the data print request includ~~ing~~es search data necessary for the selecting device~~means~~ to select the output terminal, and

——— the selecting device~~means~~ retrieving~~es~~ output terminal information from the storage device~~means~~ on the basis of the search data contained in the data print request so as to select an output terminal considered to be the best suited for the user of the portable terminal to receive provided output data.

2. (Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~

the output terminal information including~~includes~~ data on an output terminal position to~~for~~ determin~~ing~~e the location where the output terminal is installed, ~~and~~

the search data ~~may~~ includ~~ing~~e data on a portable terminal position to~~for~~ determin~~ing~~e the position of the portable terminal, and

the selecting device~~means~~ retrieving~~es~~ output terminal position data from the storage device~~means~~ on the basis of data on a portable terminal position contained in the search data, to thereby selecting~~ing~~ an output terminal considered to be the closest distance-wise or time-wise, taking the position of the portable terminal as a~~the~~ reference.

3. (Twice Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~

_____the output terminal information includ~~es~~ing data on an output terminal

position to~~for~~ determin~~ing~~e a location where the output terminal is installed, ~~and~~

_____the search data ~~may~~includ~~ing~~e data on a desired providing area that

indicates a desired providing area, which is an approximate place where output data is desired

to be provided, and

_____the selecting device~~means~~ retriev~~es~~ing data on an output terminal position

from the storage device~~means~~ on the basis of the data on a desired providing area included in

the search data to thereby to select an output terminal located in an area specified by the data

on a desired providing area.

_____4. _____(Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 3, ~~wherein~~

_____the selecting device~~means~~ ~~does~~not perform~~ing~~ search based on the data on a

portable terminal position if the position specified by the data on a portable terminal position

is not included in the area specified by the data on a desired providing area included in the

search data.

_____5. _____(Twice Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~

_____the output terminal information includ~~es~~ing printing format data indicating a

data format that can be printed by the output terminal among data formats of data regarding

the data print request, ~~and~~

_____the search data ~~may~~includ~~ing~~e the printing format data, and

_____the selecting device~~means~~ retriev~~es~~ing printing format data from the storage

device~~means~~ on the basis of the printing format data included in the search data, and

select~~s~~ing an output terminal associated with the printing format data.

_____6. _____(Twice Amended) The~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~

_____the output terminal information includ~~es~~ing printing specification data

indicating the printing specification of the output terminal, ~~and~~

_____the search data may includinge the printing specification data, and

_____-the selecting devicemeans retrievinges printing specification data from the

storage devicemeans on the basis of printing specification data included in the search data,

and selectings an output terminal associated with the printing specification data.

_____7. _____(Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 1,

wherein

_____the output terminal information includinges output terminal identifying data

thatfor identifiesying the output terminals, and

_____the search data may includinge the output terminal identifying data, and

_____the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output terminal identifying data from

the storage devicemeans solely on the basis of output terminal identifying data included in the

search data, and selectings an output terminal that coincides with the output terminal

identifying data.

_____8. _____(Twice Amended) A The data output controller according to claim 1,

wherein

_____the output devicemeans outputtings output terminal information

corresponding to an output terminal selected by the selecting devicemeans to the portable

terminal.

_____9. _____(Amended) TheA data output controller that is communicably connected, via

a network, to a portable terminal that is possessed by a user and that, issues a data output

request, and features portability, and a plurality of output terminals that are distributed and

installed at various locations to output data, receives a data output request from the portable

terminal, and outputs data regarding the data output request to the output terminals, the data

output controller comprising:

a storage devicemeans thatfor storesing output terminal information regarding

the output terminals for each of the output terminals;.

a selecting devicemeans thatfor selectsing one of the plurality of output

terminals;. and

an output device thatmeans for outputsting the data regarding the data output

request to an output terminal selected by the selecting devicemeans,

wherein the data output request includinges search data necessary for the selecting

devicemeans to select the output terminal, and

the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output terminal information from the storage

devicemeans on the basis of the search data contained in the data output request so as to select

an output terminal considered to be the best suited for the user of the portable terminal to

receive provided output data.

10.   (Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9, wherein

the output terminal information includingincludes data on an output terminal

position to determinefor determining the location where the output terminal is installed, and

the search data includingmay include data on a portable terminal position to

determinefor determining the position of the portable terminal, and

the selecting device retrievingmeans retrieves data on an output terminal

position from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the data on a portable terminal position

contained in the search data, to thereby selecting an output terminal considered to be the

closest distance-wise or time-wise, taking the position of the portable terminal as athe

reference.

11.   (Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9,

wherein

_____the output terminal information includinges data on an output terminal

position for determining a location where the output terminal is installed, and

_____the search data may-includeing desired providing area data that indicates a

desired providing area, which is an approximate place where output data is desired to be

provided, and

_____the selecting devicemeans retrievinges data on an output terminal position

from the storage devicemeans on the basis of the data on a desired providing area included in

the search data to thereby to-select an output terminal located in an area specified by the data

on a desired providing area.

_____12.   (Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 11, wherein

_____the selecting devicemeans does not performing a search based on data on a

portable terminal position if the position specified by the data on a portable terminal position

is not included in the area specified by data on a desired providing area included in the search

data.

_____13. ____(Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9,

wherein

_____the output terminal information includinges output format data indicating a

data format that can be output by the output terminal among data formats of data regarding

the data output request, and

_____the search data may-includeing the output format data, and

_____-the selecting devicemeans retrievinges output format data from the storage

devicemeans on the basis of the output format data included in the search data, and selectings

an output terminal associated with the output format data.

_____14. ____(Twice Amended) TheA data output controller according to claim 9,

wherein

_____the output terminal information includ~~es~~<u>ing</u> output specification data indicating the output specification of the output terminal, ~~and~~

_____the search data ~~may~~ includ~~e~~<u>ing</u> the output specification data, and

_____ the selecting <u>device</u>~~means~~ retriev~~es~~<u>ing</u> output specification data from the storage <u>device</u>~~means~~ on the basis of output specification data included in the search data, and select~~s~~<u>ing</u> an output terminal associated with the output specification data.

_____15.   _____(Twice Amended) <u>The</u>~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 9, ~~wherein~~

_____the output terminal information includ~~es~~<u>ing</u> output terminal identifying data <u>that</u>~~for~~ identif~~ying~~<u>ies</u> the output terminals, ~~and~~

_____the search data ~~may~~ includ~~e~~<u>ing</u> the output terminal identifying data, and

_____the selecting <u>device</u>~~means~~ retriev~~es~~<u>ing</u> output terminal identifying data from the storage <u>device</u>~~means~~ solely on the basis of output terminal identifying data included in the search data, and select~~s~~<u>ing</u> an output terminal that coincides with the output terminal identifying data.

_____16.   _____(Twice Amended) <u>The</u>~~A~~ data output controller according to claim 9, ~~wherein~~

_____the output <u>device</u>~~means~~ output~~s~~<u>ting</u> output terminal information corresponding to an output terminal selected by the selecting <u>device</u>~~means~~ to the portable terminal.